Using Inferring to Examine the Author’s Purpose

Rarely does an author state explicitly his/her purpose for writing a particular text. Students must make inferences to answer questions dealing with the author’s purpose. The following questions might be used to help students think about author’s purpose.

• List the things you think the author had to know to write this selection.

• Why did the author write this selection?

• What do we learn about the author’s thinking?

• What is the author trying to make us think about?

There are often several purposes that can be justified for authors to have written a selection.

Having students provide support for the purpose they chose will help them learn to base their answers on information found in a text.

[](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&docid=IBP7oM2huOyv_M&tbnid=HDgV5s2vV36SDM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.smartlearningindia.com%2Fbecome-an-author%2F&ei=Q2FLUY-kN8abyQH164HIBw&bvm=bv.44158598,d.aWc&psig=AFQjCNFWvuoY-xm2T8CfKRLTr_3brYvAqw&ust=1363980911064424)